

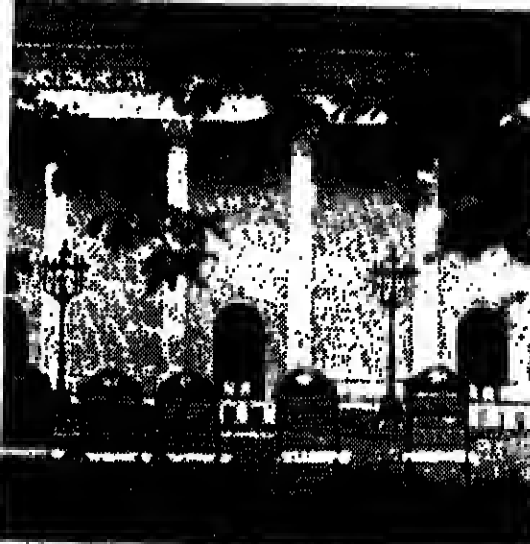


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The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 23 December 1971
Tenth Year - No. 506 - By air

Berlin transit agreement initialled

Süddeutsche Zeitung

It is more than mere coincidence that Rainer Barzel left on his first journey to the Soviet Union as leader of the Opposition on the day the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Chancellor Brandt in Oslo in recognition of Brandt's policy of coming to terms with the East.

Rainer Barzel's declared intention is to see first hand the results of this policy and decide once and for all whether or not he is in favour of it.

At the same time State Secretaries of the two German states reached agreement on the details of transit arrangements in respect of Berlin.

That same day the North Atlantic Council, meeting in Brussels, debated the conclusions to be drawn from the Berlin agreement.

There could hardly be a clearer demonstration of the international political links between the various parts of what can only be called Atlantic *Ostpolitik*.

Seldom in post-war history has such a complicated procedure involving so much political precision been successfully maintained over so long a period.

Not only the Bonn government and West Berlin Senate but also the three Western Powers and all other Nato countries have been involved in the building of this many-storied structure in the West.

For this reason if for no other it is sheer demagoguery to maintain time and time again that Bonn's chosen political path represents a dangerous departure from cooperation with the West and leads to make this country a tool of Soviet Communism.

Had it not been for the initiative passed by the Federal Government in 1961 this unparalleled example of international cooperation among allies would not have proved possible.

On the other hand had it not been for a change in the international political atmosphere, specifically in relations between the two communist world powers, Western cooperation on the new *Ostpolitik* would have been impossible.

The change was certainly a major prerequisite. The Berlin Agreement occupies pride of place among the achievements brought about as a result of the common endeavour.

It is the hub of the entire enterprise, an agreement that does not make do with lip service to détente, consisting instead of hundreds of detailed points.

Security in Europe, as the past 25 years have shown, cannot be achieved by embarking on universal disarmament, which remains a Utopian proposition, but only by settling points of conflict in painstaking detail and to the advantage of both sides.

The significance of the detailed agreement becomes apparent when the situation ten years ago is recalled. A decade

ago world peace was jeopardised by the overnight erection of the Berlin Wall.

Tanks faced one another turret to turret at the sector boundary and the building of the Wall proved to be but one step along a downhill path that was to place one difficulty after another in the way of the people of West Berlin.

The difficulties ranged from threats to the air corridors to arbitrary arrests in overland transit. Even without a full-scale blockade it looked much as though Berlin would gradually be drained of life.

Of the various components of *Ostpolitik*, including the Moscow and Warsaw treaties, the Berlin Agreement is undoubtedly the one in which the West is most interested.

It constitutes a detailed international written security guarantee for which the people of Berlin waited in vain for more than a quarter of a century.

Not every detail of the agreement is quite as satisfactory as might have been wished, of course, but then we do live in a world dominated by power politics and war crises. In comparison with the past and present situation the agreement is by and large satisfactory.

To begin with no roads are to be made on the permanent presence of Federal institutions in West Berlin. Not a single Federal authority or administrative court, for instance, is having to move.

There will be no intrusion on West Berlin airspace by Soviet jets in protest at sessions of Bundestag committees or parliamentary parties in the former Reichstag building. These are to be internationally guaranteed.

The crucial factor, however, is the agreement on unhindered access. It would of course have been wishful thinking to have expected the establishment of a land corridor, a facility that was not agreed after the war.

This accounts for one of the two difficult sections in the text of the Four-Power agreement, the so-called abuse clause providing for arrests on the access routes only in special circumstances "in which there are sufficient grounds for assuming that abuse of transit routes is intended."

Within the framework of this flexible formula the Berlin negotiators have done all in their power to ensure safety of access. It is just not true to assert that most refugees from the other part of Germany are affected by the clause.

There is no question of the GDR by the



Brandt honoured in Oslo

Chancellor Willy Brandt received the Nobel Peace Prize on 10 December in Oslo. At a ceremony attended by Crown Prince Harald and Crown Princess Sonja, members of the diplomatic corps and the Norwegian government, Herr Brandt was handed the Prize's gold medal by Aase Lionas, chairman of the Storting's Nobel Prize Committee. (Photo: dpa)

terms of the present agreement refusing transit to anyone to whom it takes a dislike, be they Federal civil servants, members of the National Democratic Party or refugees from the GDR, - as has happened in the past.

The clause may appear to be a tricky proposition to have to accept but it ought not to be forgotten that the GDR has had to swallow its pride on a fair number of other matters, first and foremost the restrictions on its sovereignty condoned by Moscow despite the fact that it itself has always set great store by just this sovereignty.

The technically trickiest and most problematic section deals with the equal treatment originally demanded for West Berliners and holders of Federal Republic passports. In the text of the Four-Power agreement equal treatment became comparable treatment.

This was a concession to the virtually panic-level anxiety on the GDR's part lest a quota-free "invasion" of West Berliners make shortages even more apparent - quite apart from the free flow of information and opinion.

What has now been agreed cannot, maybe, be described as equal treatment but is comparable in the meaning of the Four-Power agreement.

The immediate processing agreement reached at the last minute may be shackled by absurd red tape and restrictions but it does represent an improvement.

Continued on page 2

Agreement terms best that can be expected

After last-minute complications the agreements between the Federal and GDR governments and West Berlin Senate and the GDR government were signed on 11 December, thus fulfilling the terms of the Four-Power agreement on Berlin of 3 September.

The Federal government has noted that the terms of the agreements by far exceed all expectations, though Bonn is the first to admit that they are not perfect.

It remains to be seen whether the sprint down the home straight will prove to have been a success. Events in Brussels, where the North Atlantic Council was in session, were no longer affected by the terms of the agreement, which was not signed until the day after the Nato conference had come to a close.

GDR State Secretary Günther Kohrt claimed during the signing ceremony that his Council of Ministers had grasped the initiative in conducting the negotiations and bringing them to a successful conclusion.

This, however, cannot hide the fact that East Berlin, particularly as the final hurdles were being scaled, could only be persuaded to overcome its misgivings by dint of anergic pressure brought to bear by Moscow.

For that matter one can well ask whether Bonn was right to press ahead with the last-minute sprint in the face of grave misgivings on the part of the Berlin parliamentary parties.

Were, despite the dismissal of the idea by East Berlin, some arrangement for West Berliners to visit the East during the Christmas season yet to be reached it would be an indication that concessions to the GDR do at times pay.

(Hendelsblett, 13 December 1971)

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■ BONN

Parliamentary groups aid international understanding

Who would ever link the idea of parliamentary friendship groups with political pioneers? On the rare occasions they are mentioned in the press or on radio or television it is usually because members are just about to go on a trip abroad or have just come back from one.

As these visits to distant countries do not seem to entail difficult duties or negotiations and thus fail to hit the headlines, the man on the street tends to think that the main purpose of these groups is to provide members of the Bundestag with cheap flights to other continents.

But things are different in reality. The large number of parliamentary friendship groups do not function as a private travel agents' for Bundestag members. Instead,

Depending on its size, each group selects a two to five-man executive at a constitutive meeting usually chaired by the Bundestag President in his capacity as head of the West German branch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The executive outlines the main spheres of members' activities. Resolutions are drafted by the full session and all members can submit proposals. Trips abroad always require thorough examination and the express permission of the Bundestag President. Only the members of the group executive are normally entitled to travel.

Ten of the nineteen parliamentary groups currently existing in the Bundestag are friendship groups. That means that the parliament of the partner nation has also set up a similar group.

Nine of them are contact groups. In these cases there is no equivalent association in the partner country.

The oldest group is the West German-French group established in 1957. Today it has 93 members. The largest group is the West German-Russian group established only this year with its 158 members. The smallest is the West German-Cypriot group with sixteen members.

Of the 518 deputies in the Bundestag 410 (or 79 per cent) belong to one or more of these parliamentary groups. This figure will presumably rise by the end of the year as there are plans to establish two new groups in December - a West German-Scandinavian and a West German-Iranian Friendship Group.

The importance of the various parliamentary groups depends on the momentary political situation. The better the relations with the partner nation, the less conspicuous are the parliamentary groups.

The West German-French Friendship Group for instance did a lot of good work at the end of the fifties. In more recent years the activities of the parliamentary groups have concentrated on increasing cooperation with Eastern European countries.

Cary von Buttlar, an administrative adviser in the Inter-Parliamentary Affairs group, states, "Parliamentary groups have a quasi-prophylactic function. Wherever relations with other parliaments are to be improved and intensified, they do genuine pioneer work."

Inter-parliamentary contacts with States that have not established equivalent friendship groups are upheld by a

loose group of deputies of the country concerned or via suitable institutions.

In the United States for instance a parliamentary group can only be established through law. In order to avoid increased legislation, the United States has restricted itself to establishing parliamentary friendship groups with its immediate neighbours only.

Relations with other countries - including the Federal Republic - are no less intensive as a result since they are fostered by organisations such as the Atlantic Bridge or the Nato Parliamentarians.

West Germany too places great store on an interchange of ideas with the parliamentarians of neighbouring States. Members of the West German-Belgium-Luxembourg Friendship groups for instance meet regularly for joint discussions on transport, culture and other affairs affecting the three countries.

Members of the parliamentary groups have also had opportunity of proving their skill on a number of diplomatic missions. One example was in 1968 when the West German-Korean group succeeded in achieving the release of a number of political prisoners (Korean students kidnapped from the Federal Republic by the South Korean secret service).

"That was convincing proof for the political importance of these parliamentary groups," states Dr. Walter Keim of the Bundestag's Press and Information Office. "Sometimes they are even described as the best secret diplomats we have."

Ilane von Koscielski

(Das Parlament, 27 November 1971)

Millions to promote cultural relations overseas

The Federal Republic's cultural affairs policy abroad is once again under discussion as the debate on urgent reform of its aims and organisation continues.

Experts believe that more financial aid should be given to the cultural affairs department if it is really to be one of the pillars of Bonn's foreign policy.

Dr. Martin, the Christian Democrat education expert and chairman of the Bundestag committee of inquiry, believes that five hundred million Marks a year should be allocated for cultural affairs. At present the government only provides 384 million Marks.

Bonn at present finances some 250 German schools throughout the world. Seventy thousand children and ten thousand youngsters of the pre-school age are taught by 1,500 German teachers and 3,500 local teachers. On top of this come cultural institutes, exhibitions and scientific and student exchanges.

The main problems, Dr. Martin said, were the place of cultural efforts policy in foreign policy, reorganisation (in the Foreign Office for instance), the future organisation of schools abroad, the use of mass media and the working method of intermediate agencies.

The commission of inquiry visited a number of Latin American countries this autumn in order to gain an on-the-spot impression of the present situation. "Not all impressions were complimentary," Dr. Martin comments.

A lot must be changed, he said. The needs of the host country must be considered to a greater extent. There must be closer cooperation and the Federal Republic must provide more scholarships so that children of the so-called lower classes can also be educated at German schools. It is important to free these schools of their image as schools for the privileged. It might often be of more benefit to set up career training centres instead of the normal type of school. Dr. Martin believes that the bilingual school must play an important part in future plans.

Hartmut-J. Keppner

(Kleider Nachrichten, 2 December 1971)

Press interpretation of popularity poll varies

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Pollsters from the Allensbach Institute recently conducted a survey to discover what voters thought of prominent politicians and the current political situation.

Eighteen tables were sent to newspaper editorial staffs along with a short explanation and interpretation of the results.

The West German press seized upon the subject after ZDF-Magazin, a weekly television programme dealing with current affairs, announced the first results in one of its broadcasts.

Headlines announced "Schiller and Wehner lose support" (*Die Welt*), "Survey reveals Brandt as most capable politician" (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*), "Brandt's popularity unchanged" (*Frankfurter Rundschau*), "Allensbach reveals large swings among voters" (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*), "Super-Minister Schiller slips most" (*Bild*) or "Schmidt rises, Strauss drops" (*Hamburger Morgenpost*).

The most important news in *Bild* and *Welt* is that members of the governing coalition have lost support or slipped in the charts.

The *Frankfurter Rundschau* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung* stress the popular support for Chancellor Willy Brandt while the left-wing *Hamburger Morgenpost* announces Helmut Schmidt's rise in popularity and Franz Josef Strauss' drop in support.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* demonstrates its knowledge of the problems of political science by pointing out the swings among the voting population.

That is the gnoll thing about the results of opinion polls - there is something for everyone. You only have to serve up the right way.

Anyone prepared to spend twenty pfennigs on both *Bild* and *Hamburger Morgenpost*, the two Hamburg titles, learned the whole truth about Helmut Wehner's popularity.

Readers who bought only one of the newspapers either saw "Herbert Wehner, a top-class politician though not always popular, now has the support of 34 per cent of the population" (*Hamburger Post*) or "The most unpopular politician is Social Democrat Wehner. Fifty-one per cent of the population do not have a good opinion of him" (*Bild*).

Some papers believe the poll is important because it gives information on the standing of our politicians, as *Morgenpost* put it, or, in the words of *Bild*, "politicians' top-ten."

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on the other hand states that the swings in voter popularity were much more formative. It devotes little space to the test of popularity and warns its readers that the results are not complete in this respect as many of the most popular Christian Democrat politicians have been omitted.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* does not therefore believe that Strauss and Rainer Barzel are not the most popular CDU/CSU men, a fact that most of the other newspapers ignore.

This survey of the West German press shows how many possible interpretations there are for the results of an opinion poll. Pupils of political education are told that reading headlines alone is not enough. A person must read a number of newspapers.

Jörg Richter

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 21 November 1971)

■ PROFILE

Carlo Schmid - a European Statesman

Professor Carlo Schmid celebrated his 75th birthday on 3 December. Schmid, a man who has become almost legendary in post-war politics in this country, is a striking combination of a politician and a scholar of the arts, a philosopher and a man of letters, an aesthete and student of international law.

People of his type have been rare in Germany. The man of letters is more a feature of political and intellectual life in France and it is in the French intellectual world that Schmid, who was born in the south of France, has found his second home.

His prolific literary works are proof of this side of his nature. Apart from his own works of fiction and academic and political studies he has translated authors

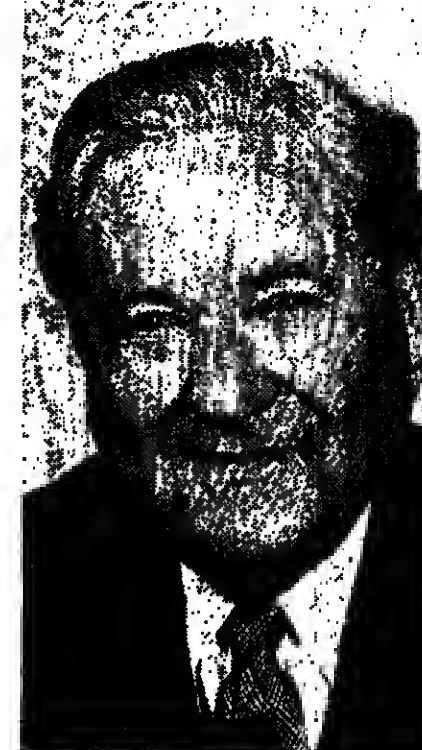
President Pompidou honours Carlo Schmid

President Pompidou has awarded Bundestag Vice-President Carlo Schmid the insignia of a grand officer of the Legion of Honour in recognition of his services to Franco-German understanding.

The award took place on 2 December. A day later the Social Democrat politician celebrated his 75th birthday and the Bundestag held a special ceremony in his honour. Schmid has been a member of the Council of Europe and a member of the Western European Union assembly.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 December 1971)

Hannoversche Presse



Carlo Schmid
(Photo: Marianne von der Lenczen)

He has become a European statesman though without ever attaining any of those posts for which he seemed destined - that of Foreign Minister, Bundestag President or Federal President.

As a member of the SPD executive he had a determining influence on party policy, especially on the party programme redrafted at Bad Godesberg in 1959.

His work in shaping Basic Law was of decisive importance and his name will always be linked with it.

Wolfgang Fechner
(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 3 December 1971)

Reshuffle of judges at Karlsruhe Court

development now that he has succeeded Gebhard Müller as president and at the same time taken over the chairmanship of the First Chamber of the Constitutional Court. Banda was a Christian Democrat member of the Bundestag and acted as Minister of the Interior between 1968 and 1969.

Joachim Rottmann, the unanimously elected Free Democrat candidate, is the same age as Banda. Born in Arnstadt, Thuringia, he studied in the Soviet Zone as it then was and took his final law examinations in West Berlin.

Rottmann was in the Ministry of Defence for ten years and under the new administration became a ministerial director and head of the central department in the Ministry of the Interior.

Martin Hirsch also comes from the world of Bonn politics. Born in Breslau in 1913 he practised law in Berlin. He was up to now one of the SPD's legal affairs experts and deputy chairman of the parliamentary group.

Hirsch will become vice-president of the Constitutional Court on the retirement of Walter Seuffert, the current head of the Second Chamber.

It was during a consultative session of the Third Penal Chamber of the Federal Court of Justice that Dr. Hans Fallas, born in 1915 and deputy chairman of the body, heard of his election as judge of the Constitutional Court.

Fallas comes from Bader and has inherited a vineyard and holiday home in the Black Forest. He served the Constitutional Court in the fifties as a councillor and press spokesman.

His election has put an end to the tension surrounding the possibility that a

post at the Constitutional Court could be illegally occupied if the successor to retiring judge Professor Stein had been a man who had never been a judge of any sort.

After judges Rinek and Wand, Dr. Fallas is the third judge to have worked previously as an adviser in the Constitutional Court and to have grown (or been reared) to be a supreme judge.

Gebhard Müller has already passed the age of retirement. Born on 17 April 1900 at Firsamoos near Biberach, he has been head of the Constitutional Court for almost thirteen years and is one of the most respected Germans of our era.

There are few persons in which the inner development of faculties can be traced as clearly as in Müller. A student and social worker during the years of inflation, he became a judge in Swabia, State President of Württemberg-Hohenzollern and was one of the pacesetters for the union of Baden and Württemberg into one Federal state.

The gap arising in the Constitutional Court through the departure of Professor Leibholz, the leading democratic thinker



of his generation, cannot be filled by a scholar of law despite the fact that the Constitutional Court badly needs a few more professors as judges.

Like the Hesse Minister of Education and Justice, Professor Stein, Leibholz was at the Constitutional Court ever since it was established in 1951.

Gregor Geller, who is also leaving, was recognised as an independent person during his eight years at the Constitutional Court.

Erhard Becker
(Handelsblatt, 9 December 1971)

FLASHED NEW

Brandt medals

The trades-union-owned Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft is issuing a medallion to commemorate the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chancellor Willy Brandt. A portrait of the Chancellor will be on the gold and silver medals.

The medallion is intended for collectors. Investors looking for a good investment are recommended to buy gold bars.

The Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft has issued medals in the past. A series of city medals sold like hotcakes, the bank states. The Brandt medallions are expected to be just as popular.

Normally there is no market for medallions and the only way to make money out of them is to melt them down. But the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft has come up with a new idea. They will rebuy any medallion at ten per cent below normal cost price. Few collectors have taken advantage of this scheme so far.

Oskar H. Metzger
(Handelsblatt, 1 December 1971)

Mayor dies

Walter Möller, Mayor of Frankfurt since June 1970, died of a heart attack on 23 November 1971. He was 51. Despite his short term in office, twice interrupted by illness, Walter Möller will be remembered as a man who prepared the way for progressive local policies.

Möller was one of those men who rejected the capitalist system despite his high office. To conservatives he was the embodiment of left-wing Social Democracy. He was considered a "Red" who wanted to see his ideas brought into practice.

Walter Möller was also criticised by his left-wing colleagues for not always being able to do what he wanted. Anyone seeing through the social structure must change it radically, they argued.

But the social structures had practical as well as theoretical importance for Möller. That enabled him to judge the correct relationship between Socialist theory and political practice and contributed to his success.

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 28 November 1971)

NPD leader

Martin Müssnug, the new leader of the National Democrats, is in many respects the complete opposite of his predecessor Adolf von Thadden, the Prussian aristocrat with a touching desire for a "good Germany".

Müssnug is not driven on by any unrealistic aims and he is too young to have had a Nazi past. Born in Heidelberg in 1936, he studied law. After passing his final examinations he started up a law practice in the Swabian town of Tuttlingen.

Müssnug has been a member of the NPD since it was established and he soon worked his way up to be leader of the Baden-Württemberg branch. In 1968 the Reutlingen constituency returned him as its member in the Stuttgart Provincial Assembly.

His election as party leader must be seen in context with the forthcoming provincial elections in Baden-Württemberg and the threat that the NPD might not get any seats in the new Provincial Assembly in Stuttgart.

The colourless young NPD man is anything but an extremist. His political stance is original rather than radical and he will disappoint the many members calling for a strong man.

Karl Neu
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 28 November 1971)

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CINEMA

Schamoni's new film *eins* is a winner

Back in 1966 Ulrich Schamoni's film *es* marked the start of the short-lived, hopeful movement Junger Deutscher Film. This group had no theoretical basis, nor did it act as a school of filmmakers with communal policies and strategies.

And so the young German filmmakers, Fritz, Casov, Kluge, Reitz, Schamoni, Senf, Straub and others very quickly found themselves with a series of corrupting first-time successes on their hands and there followed the inevitable vain and jealous self-destructive process.

The group allowed itself to be used by the run-of-the-mill film industry people or went on to the other extreme and went out of its way to produce classy art films that would earn prizes and recommendations, accolades all round except from the filmgoing public, who just would not want to know.

Then the group was ignored by those young film critics who stared with stony eyes in the direction of Hollywood, the Hollywood of old. Finally it was steam-rollered by the onward march of the former underground filmmakers, Fassbinder, Prainheim and Schroeter.

Ulrich Schamoni went on to make *Alle Jahre wieder* and *Quartett im Bett*, both of which were relatively successful and then the somewhat tortuous romance *wir zwei*, which hardly got a showing in the cinemas at all.

His latest film is a radical attempt to break out from the rut, entitled *eins*.

A podgy, owl-like businessman goes on a trip through France and on the way picks up two casual workers to make their fortune. He teaches them a trick for winning at roulette and sets them to work in the casinos in Biarritz and on the Riviera.

Then he takes it easy, lounges around and amuses himself with a girlfriend.

The two roulette employees revolt on



Ulrich Schamoni in his latest film *eins*

(Photo: Schamoni/Teampress)

one occasion but the businessman is able to fob them off with a small share of the profits.

Later on they decide to play for themselves, make a packet, buy out Fetsch and leave him behind bewildered, bemused and alone.

The film really gets under way with the beginning of the working relationship and instead of the situation and character comedy at the beginning a number of viewpoints come to the fore and the cinemagoer, according to Schamoni, can pick which ever he likes the best or finds the most plausible.

At the outset the film is the story of a journey, peppered with hidden meanings and in-jokes, filmed in 16mm and 35mm with scenic shots of great beauty, most of the scenes being improvised from immediate moods and experiences.

Secondly the film is a study of gambling, the game of roulette as a form of entertainment or as a sign of depravity.

The action is not concentrated on the fascination or the technique of the game (we never see the wheel at all) but on the psychology of cheating at roulette, being

broken by the game or making a living out of it.

Thirdly, and here Schamoni's political involvement comes out, there is the political parable of the industrialist and the workers. The two vagrants work for the man who has the system in his pocket and who has the wherewithal.

There is the apparent solidarity during the business excursion in the Camargue, the symbolic attempt to escape by the two exploited men, the return to dependence, then the final revolution.

Karl Kraus's abstract pacifist film *Am Rande der Welt* (On the Edge of the World) produced in 1927 was permeated with impressions of the First World War. It was an honourable effort and around great indignation among nationalists when first released. But today it seems rather comical.

None of these films can hold a candle to Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau's *Siehe* (1927). This film, shot in America, is the story of a farmer and his wife whose marriage is rocked by a big-city woman. Murnau proves to be one of the few great directors of those days whose work has withstood the ravages of time.

Peter Schröder, as the chauffeur is a man for all parts. Andrea Rau again plays the role she has carved out for herself in the West German film industry in any number of cheap porn pieces. She lets herself be lured and exploited and demonstrates this exploitation movingly by doing the only thing she is capable of doing - getting 'em off and posing nude!

Ulrich Schamoni himself made the largest private investment. He is a typical boss, even though eaten away with self-doubt and at bottom a shabby, hollow moneybags, a miserable beer-bellied lump of meat.

Without sparing himself at all Schamoni distends his rosy-pink messes of flesh and bares his rotten teeth.

This is the fifth level at which the film runs - the part of the businessman in the film biz. The two casual workers represent the *Jungfilmer* who have an initially bad experience with big money and small ambitions and suddenly find emancipation - they then play a part themselves instead of being mere tools.

One of them who takes the risk and loses - the other plays on one and wins. But will this *eins* be a winner?

The usual criticism that the film is too diffuse, the director is too fond of pretty pictures and the like are not really yardsticks for such a work. The film is good when it is highly subjective entirely Ulrich Schamoni, and it is good to see that a man who has experienced commercial success still films what he wants to film. Will audiences want to see it?

Johannes Schaefer said: "One of the reasons why *Jungfilmer* are now so isolated is that they made their little world so excuse for making the cinematic medium so complicated that no one could understand it." **Wolf Donner**

(Die Zeit, 3 December 1971)

Insufficient cash available for film libraries

Greta Garbo suffers silently from the Depression while Asta Nielsen, first as a young streetwalker, later as an ageing experienced whore hastens towards her melodramatic end. Paul Wegener exploits Garhart Hauptmann's starving weavers, Wilhelm Dieterle agitates in the cause of class warfare and Werner Krauss lies on the psychoanalyst's couch.

This nostalgic revival of the good old days of German silent film came by courtesy of a film seminar organised by the North Rhine-Westphalian Education Ministry at the Folkwang Museum in Essen.

Six historically interesting films from the archives of the German Cinematheque Institute in Wiesbaden were shown under the collective heading of "The Portrayal of Social Problems in the German Silent Film of the Twenties".

We remember the cleverly staged crowd scenes from the 1927 production of Hauptmann's *Die Weber* (The Weavers) by Friedrich Zelnik, at the time a film full of involvement in the plight of the working classes but nowadays looking very aged.

Another outstanding point about the film was the graphically unusual and powerfully expressive titles designed by Georg Gross.

Karl Kraus's abstract pacifist film *Am Rande der Welt* (On the Edge of the World) produced in 1927 was permeated with impressions of the First World War. It was an honourable effort and around great indignation among nationalists when first released. But today it seems rather comical.

None of these films can hold a candle to Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau's *Siehe* (1927). This film, shot in America, is the story of a farmer and his wife whose marriage is rocked by a big-city woman. Murnau proves to be one of the few great directors of those days whose work has withstood the ravages of time.

Peter Schröder, as the chauffeur is a man for all parts. Andrea Rau again plays the role she has carved out for herself in the West German film industry in any number of cheap porn pieces. She lets herself be lured and exploited and demonstrates this exploitation movingly by doing the only thing she is capable of doing - getting 'em off and posing nude!

Ulrich Schamoni himself made the largest private investment. He is a typical boss, even though eaten away with self-doubt and at bottom a shabby, hollow moneybags, a miserable beer-bellied lump of meat.

Without sparing himself at all Schamoni distends his rosy-pink messes of flesh and bares his rotten teeth.

This is the fifth level at which the film runs - the part of the businessman in the film biz. The two casual workers represent the *Jungfilmer* who have an initially bad experience with big money and small ambitions and suddenly find emancipation - they then play a part themselves instead of being mere tools.

One of them who takes the risk and loses - the other plays on one and wins. But will this *eins* be a winner?

The usual criticism that the film is too diffuse, the director is too fond of pretty pictures and the like are not really yardsticks for such a work. The film is good when it is highly subjective entirely Ulrich Schamoni, and it is good to see that a man who has experienced commercial success still films what he wants to film. Will audiences want to see it?

Johannes Schaefer said: "One of the reasons why *Jungfilmer* are now so isolated is that they made their little world so excuse for making the cinematic medium so complicated that no one could understand it." **Wolf Donner**

(Die Zeit, 3 December 1971)

ARCHAEOLOGY

Midas touch never deserted Heinrich Schliemann

The life of Heinrich Schliemann, born the son of a pastor 150 years ago on 6 January 1822 in Neubuckow, Mecklenburg, seems as if it could have been taken straight out of a fairy-tale.

No other person has ever had a career like Schliemann. Though it appears as a patchwork confusion there was a thread of ingenious logic running through it, linking the component parts.

Heinrich Schliemann inherited his almost fanatical love of Ancient Greek civilisation, the one driving force in his life, from his father who taught him much about the Trojan War, the ballicose Achilles, the wily Odysseus, the deeds of Hercules and the Phrygian King Midas whose handa turned everything to gold. But Schliemann senior was unable to provide his gifted son with a classical education at a grammar school and university.

Heinrich became a grocer's apprentice at the age of fourteen and though every evening after his uninspiring work of lifting and selling soap and salted herbs he sought refuge in his books about the Ancient World and sometimes wished to be King Midas but it was all of no use - nothing in his hands turned to gold.

Instead he was plagued by misfortune. When he was nineteen he ran away to Hamburg and enlisted as a ship's boy on a ship sailing to Venezuela. But he did not get very far. His ship was wrecked in a storm off the Dutch coast and all he saved for his pains was the not very desirable post of errand boy for a trading house in Amsterdam.

He now abandoned his unprofitable dreaming about the Ancient Greeks. When he noticed how easily he was able

Continued from page 6

countries are building up film libraries the Federal Republic still makes do with its national film archives.

And so small organisations such as the *Deutsches Institut für Filmbildung* are trying to work with totally inadequate funds trying to save irreplaceable historical works.

These paltry funds and seeming lack of interest are making it difficult to deal satisfactorily with the history of the cinema 75 years after the first moving pictures were made.

Obviously officials in this country see nothing amiss in a country with such a cultural history and heritage having no national film library. To bring the matter home to them they should be asked to sit down and try to imagine research into literature without well-stocked libraries, historical and art history studies without adequate museums and galleries!

In many places cultural advisers to officialdom who are quite keen to splash their money about when it is for operas, writing cheques for a million or two without a second thought, when asked if they are prepared to lend a hand to scientific studies of the cinema pass the buck or complain that they are not running a charitable organisation.

And so irreplaceable films are rotting away because there is no money to make copies and films that are offered to reluctant libraries cannot be accepted because there is insufficient space to store them.

Lately the Federal states have been trying to agree on proposals to set up some sort of film library at some point in the dim and distant future. And as yet they have not reached any agreement.

Bodo Filandt

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 November 1971)

the Dardanelles he believed he had found the site of ancient Troy.

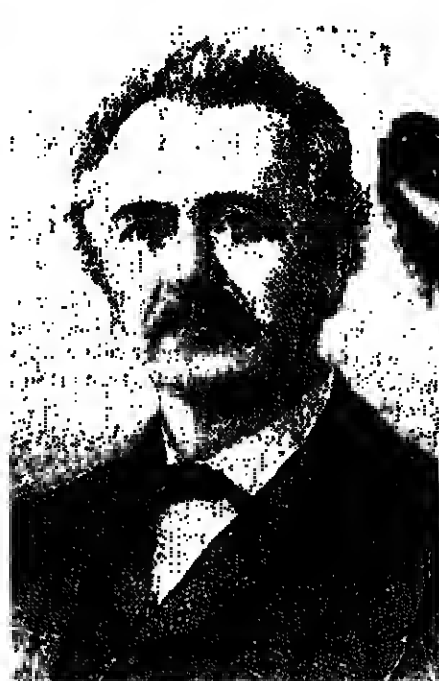
His Midas touch did not desert him. Schliemann, experienced in Oriental bargaining since his days in Russia, used his sweet words and even sweeter sounding bakishah to gain the ear of the most important Turkish officials and thus obtained the Sultan's permission to excavate the site as long and as extensively as he wished.

Between 1870 and 1890 with a few temporary breaks Schliemann dug through all nine levels. At first he thought that the remains of a city that had been destroyed by fire between 2500 and 2000 B.C. was his Troy but he had been misled by all the gold he found, the so-called treasure of Priam.

The genuine Homeric Troy, a large city of the Mycenaean civilisation around 1200 B.C., lay four levels higher. Schliemann's Midas touch persisted. In 1876 he found the vast treasure of gold from the tombs of the Kings of Mycenae, in 1881 and 1882 came across the entry to the treasury of Orchomenos and in 1884 and 1885 uncovered the mighty palace of the fabulous kings of Tiryns.

There could have been no nobler discoverer of the Homeric age. Schliemann paid for the excavations from his own pocket and he took nothing from the treasures he found.

He donated the valuable finds from Troy to the German Empire after they had been exhibited from 1877 to 1880 in the South Kensington Museum. The



Heinrich Schliemann
(Photo: Staatsbibliothek Berlin)

Schliemann collection became the centre-point of the Ethnological Museum in Berlin.

His Mycenaean finds and the items he discovered in his later excavations were donated to the Greek National Museum in Athens, a city in which he spent many years of his life.

Rudolf Winkler

(Kölnischer Nachrichten, 2 December 1971)

Gabriele Wohmann - portrait of a modern writer

She is melancholy though not without hope. Tall and slim, with long black hair and dressed in black, Gabriele Wohmann sits sipping black coffee and looks at the world outside with her dark eyes.

But she wears sparkling rings on her fingers and she talks and smiles energetically and with a touch of humour. "I like life too," she states seriously.

She has been melancholy since she was a child. "I shall always remain childlike in a certain respect," she says with a high degree of charm.

A pair of children's slippers lie in half-studied carelessness on the window seat of the ground floor of her house in Darmstadt's artist colony. Gabriele wore these slippers as a four-year-old. Next May she will be forty.

The passing of time as of all things fills her with melancholy. Even when a child, she tried to capture transitory moments and secure a supply of the fine things in life - cake in those days.

Eating is still one of her most pleasurable occupations today. But for her the

ability to enjoy also includes awareness of the danger of losing everything people enjoy - the beauty of the sea, parental love and life.

The fact that everything ends in death is another reason for her not to have a child. And yet she hopes there is an afterlife, though without actually believing in one. "You'd be no more than a suicide case without this hope," she comments.

Her hope is melancholy and basically she finds it difficult to live with. She knows how to enjoy her own melancholy of course. She likes listening to sad music like Schubert's *Winterreise* and likes bad weather. But all in all she lives under a strain that could prove dangerous for her.

"Saving time is the main thing here," complains her husband, a quiet-looking, gaily-dressed lecturer who feels that both he and wife Gabriele should be responsible for the household. "Sometimes I sweep the place, sometimes she vacuums," he comments. He complains most of all about the long hours his wife spends working. Sitting in the gallery high above the living room, she works every day from morning to evening on her books, her radio dramas and television plays. This year the pace of her existence led her to swallow so many drugs that she had to spend several weeks in a sanatorium. She is determined now to take her job a little easier but her husband is pessimistic. She has already agreed to give

more readings than he sees as either good or necessary.

She concedes that she cannot do much else. The melancholy she enjoys also plays a central role in her works. Her output is a constant, though varying repetition. "Actually I always write the same sort of stuff," she agrees.

Gabriele Wohmann tries to illuminate her inner life in her work. This is what forces her to spend so much time writing and it acts at the same time as a safety-valve, rescuing her from occasional fits of despair.

She has little time for anything else and this gives her a giddy feeling. She has no time to concern herself with other people, not even her family. For this reason she wants the routine of which everyday life consists to be more successful.

She is willing to forgo the fashionable pastimes of our time such as parties and theatre-going which she describes as a waste of time. She has to write.

But she does not write just for herself. She is one of the first writers to have done television work. One reason for this was to reach a section of the population that might not read books.

She is completely subjective. She is an individual. She hates the conformity and intolerance of the literary world that demands social criticism from every writer. But she takes her reading public seriously.

Making no allowances for her readers seems to her to be the best way of making allowances for them. Instead of adopting a condescending attitude, she confidently provides her readers with a high-quality style.

The steadily increasing sales of her books and the approval of radio and television companies are worth more than money to her. For the last two years she has been earning more than her husband which amuses her as well as filling her with a certain pride. But the most important feature of her success is that it confirms she is on the right road. **Gerd Klepaig**

(Die Welt, 25 November 1971)



Gabriele Wohmann

(Photo: Karin Voigt)

■ EDUCATION

School-leavers' wishes vary from state to state

The number of Bavarian school-leavers going on to study Classical languages is twice as high as the nation-wide average while the Schleswig-Holstein figure is one hundred per cent lower.

Hamburg's school-leavers have little inclination to become elementary school teachers, Bavarians do not want to teach at vocational schools and few people from the Saar wish to become industrial engineers.

School-leavers in Hamburg have a more than average interest for sociology, in Bremen there is above-average interest for aeronautics, in Hesse political science, in Rhineland-Palatinate geography, in Baden-Württemberg industrial engineering and in the Saar computer science.

These statistics are taken from an as yet unpublished report commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Science from the Alts Stork Engineering Bureau of Munich.

Stork analysed the wishes of school-leavers as far as courses of study and future career were concerned and was thus able to draw comparisons between the various Federal states for the first time.

The picture is so complicated because of the unstandardised structure of the education system and, above all, the varying professional prospects in the individual Federal states.

Some facts are striking. School-leavers most interested in the technical subjects come from Baden-Württemberg, Hesse

and Bremen. Least interest is shown in Hamburg.

High-school-leavers in Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein are more likely to turn to the arts. Again the least interest is shown by Hamburg's school-leavers.

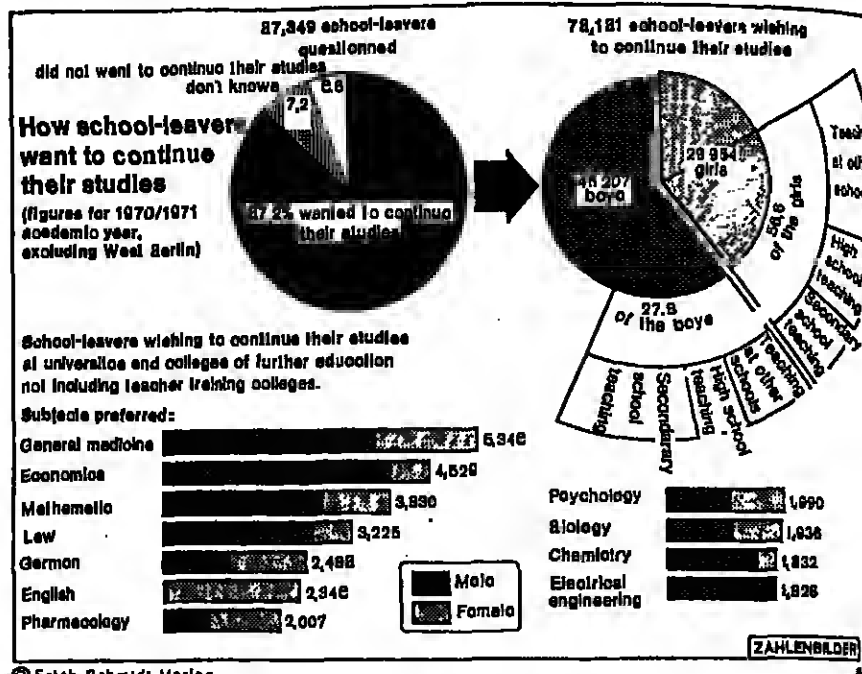
Schoolchildren in Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate are also interested in the arts while Bavarians are more likely to go on to study medical subjects such as dentistry, veterinary science, human medicine or pharmacology. Bremen's school-leavers are not so likely to enter the medical profession.

School-leavers in Hesse, Hamburg and Bremen are most likely to choose subjects such as law, economics or sociology. The teaching profession is preferred by school-leavers in Lower Saxony, Bavaria and Rhineland-Palatinate. Young people in Bremen, Hesse and Hamburg are not so keen.

Stork writes in his foreword that the proportion of school-leavers interested in scientific research or a technological or industrial career is no longer on the increase.

He had already stated in his book *Die nächste Revolution* (The Next Revolution) that neglecting the technological subjects would have an adverse effect on West German industry.

In past years between 3.5 and 5 per cent of high-school-leavers were interested in electrical engineering. This year only 2.1 per cent claimed to have any interest in the subject.



Comparing the two neighbouring city-states of Hamburg and Bremen provides some curious findings. The wishes of school-leavers in the two cities are by no means similar.

Of all school-leavers in the Federal Republic those in Bremen are most interested in mathematics, civil engineering and aeronautics while those in Hamburg are the least interested in these subjects. On the other hand, Hamburg's school-leavers are in top place when it comes to physics and Bremen's school-leavers show least interest.

Chemistry is the favourite subject of Bavaria's school-leavers. There is practically no interest in the subject in Bremen and the city's school-leavers lie in last place.

Baden-Württemberg leads the field in mechanical engineering and Hamburg is once again bottom. School-leavers from Rhineland-Palatinate and Bavaria show most interest. In electrical engineering, again, Hamburg shows little interest.

Seven per cent of this year's school-leavers went to study mathematics, two per cent physics, 3.4 per cent chemistry, 3.1 per cent biology, 1.7 mechanical engineering, 2.3 electrical engineering, 0.8 computer science, 1.5 architecture, 1.2 civil engineering, 0.4 aeronautics, 0.6 industrial engineering, 0.2 classical languages, 4.6 English, 5.0 German, 1.3 French, 1.3 history, 0.7 geography, 0.4 social science, 1.1 music, 2.1 art, 2.2 physical training, 6.7 medicine, 1.2 dentistry, 0.3 veterinary medicine, 2.6 pharmacology, 4.0 law, 1.9 economics, 3.8 business management, 0.8 sociology, 1.0 politics, 2.6 psychology, 0.7 journalism,

1.0 per cent theology and 34 per cent education.

At the end of his study consisting mainly of graphs, Stork lists all the universities in the Federal Republic and compares their admission capacities with school-leavers' wishes.

He points out the trend of the wishes and lists the subjects in which admission restrictions will be tightened up or slackened in the course of the next year or so.

Admission restrictions in medicine and dental schools will be tightened up considerably at sixteen universities. Only in Bonn, Cologne, Frankfurt, Jülich, Ulm, Würzburg and Bochum is some improvement in the situation expected.

Eleven universities are to tighten up admission restrictions for students of pharmacology. Controls will be slackened in Bonn, Göttingen and Karlsruhe.

Strict admission restrictions on students of psychology will only be relaxed at seven universities. Stork calculates that the situation for psychology students will improve at the universities of Kiel, Münster, Aachen, Gießen, Marburg, Mainz, Freiburg, Tübingen, Erlangen, Regensburg and Würzburg. The *numerus clausus* will gradually disappear in biology and chemistry.

Only 424 students wanted to go to the University of Konstanz. "No applicants are rejected. Admissions in all subjects are minimal," Stork comments. Only one school-leaver wanted to study chemistry in Konstanz, only four plan to take physics and 35 psychology.

Bavaria has the fewest female school-leavers.

Continued on page 9

Science teaching related to environmental science

The first school in the Federal Republic to have environmental conservation on its timetable can be found in the town of Baunatal, near Kassel.

Headmaster Heinrich Pflug states that the experiment — backed by the Science Ministry to the tune of 135,000 Marks — is intended to combine biology, physics and chemistry and relate them to social affairs.

"Up to now we had never got beyond being able to choose the main focal points at school," he continued. The syllabus used by the school, the Theodor Heuss Schule, reveals its great interest in politics. "We believe that we owe it to the young people to offer them a broad and relevant spectrum," he explains.

The first experiments with the new subject began in the seventh and ninth classes at the beginning of the current school-year. The trial programme extends over two years.

The children will learn to recognise the influences that industry and the civilised world can exert on nature and the environment. They will analyse the situation and if possible decide what can be done to counter pollution.

This entails taking water samples to examine the pollution content and measure the temperature, analysing samples of soil and air and observing fauna and flora affected by gases, liquid effluent and other forms of pollution.

Negotiations have already been conducted with the local forestry commission for the school to take over a section of the Federal state's woods.

The school intends to publish the results of its work. Public relations will be carried out on a smaller scale at first, however. The school will design posters and pamphlets, perhaps building this scheme up later into a general anti-pollution campaign.

Jörg-H. Beyer
(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 27 November 1971)

■ MEDICINE

Hamburg introduces scheme for voluntary organ donors

Health authorities in Hamburg recently began an organ donor campaign. The press, radio and television called upon the under-sixties to agree to act as an organ donor when they die.

The appeal met with an enormous response. The Hamburg health authorities have so far received over eight thousand letters and telephone calls in which men and women of all ages and income groups offered to act as organ donors in the event of their death. Five clerical staff were occupied full-time with answering callers in the first few days after the appeal.

Dieter W. Schmidt, the health authorities' press spokesman, stated. "The letters came in by the dozen from all parts of the Federal Republic, especially the south. Whole families have asked to become donors in some cases."

A Hamburg master carpenter born in 1901 put the case pithily. "My kidneys are functioning perfectly, why shouldn't I help the sick?" he wrote to Hamburg's Health Senator Hans Joachim Seeler and asked to become a donor.

A policeman from Bavaria wanting to become a donor used more drastic language. "Someone else should be allowed to live instead of the thing rotting along with me," he wrote.

Continued from page 8

levers (34.6 per cent) according to Stork's calculations. The Saar follows with 38.1 per cent, Hesse with 39, Baden-Württemberg with 39.1 per cent, and Bremen with 39.2 per cent. Schleswig-Holstein with a figure of 43.6 per cent has the highest proportion of female high-school-leavers.

North Rhine-Westphalia produces the largest number of high-school-leavers — 24,543. Baden-Württemberg is in second place with 15,382, followed by Bavaria with 12,471.

Bremen has the highest per capita number of high-school-leavers — 189.5 for every 100,000 inhabitants. Rhineland-Palatinate comes next with 178.5 and is followed by Baden-Württemberg with 171.0. The lowest ratios are registered in Schleswig-Holstein with 137.3, Bavaria with 117 and Hamburg with 112.5.

Rudolf Reiser

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 November 1971)

The people offering to be donors have been registered by the health authorities and sent an identity card bearing their name and address. All they need do is sign the card and doctors will be legally entitled to remove their kidneys in the event of death, the Hamburg health authorities explain.

Though most of the letters and calls from all parts of the Federal Republic expressed their approval of the Hamburg scheme there were also sceptical voices. "Will the doctors make sure I'm dead before taking my kidney out?" a forty-year-old woman asked.

Har worries could be soothed. Before any organ is transplanted the death of the donor must be established by a medical commission acting in complete independence of the doctors who are later to conduct the operation.

Health Senator Seeler hopes that the appeal will lead to more organs being available for cases of kidney disease. Most of the kidneys needed here are today flown in from Sweden.

Transplant laws are in force in Denmark and Sweden allowing doctors to take out a dead person's organs without the permission of the next-of-kin.

Senator Seeler plans to back the introduction of a similar law in the Federal Republic. Next spring the Federal state of Hamburg will put forward a Bill to this effect to the Bundesrat, the Upper House in Bonn.

One of the campaign's aims was to find out the views of the West German population about how the law should deal with organ transplants.

The opposition expected for religious and ethical reasons did not materialise. Only one letter opposed a transplant law, claiming that any person not wanting to donate an organ for religious or ideological reasons should not be discriminated against by the legislature.

Two donors from the Ruhr claimed in their letters that the Hamburg scheme was a confidence trick. The appeal had spoken only of kidney transplants but the identity card stated that the donor would give all his organs in the event of his death. "For that reason I am writing in large red letters on my card that it is not valid for the heart," one of the writers stated indignantly.

As soon as a person bearing the identity card dies the kidney operation centres in

Heidelberg or Hamburg will be informed. Arrangements will then be made for transferring the organ to an urgent case, if necessary by armed forces helicopter.

A 34-year-old man from Berlin proposed macabre dealings with the health authorities. He wrote offering to donate a kidney while still alive, though this would cost the health authorities some cash.

"If at my age I make a vital organ available to a patient and your team, I beg you to pay danger money amounting to fifteen thousand Marks," the man wrote. The Hamburg health authorities declined the offer and refused to accept him even as a voluntary organ donor.

The health authorities were on the other hand pleased to receive a telephone call from an 84-year-old woman who stated that her heart was working perfectly and she wanted to have the feeling of still being someone.

"We naturally sent this woman an identity card," press spokesman Dieter W. Schmidt comments, "and she thanked us for it the very next day."

Dieter Stücker

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 November 1971)

Survey reveals sick population

Between fifty and seventy per cent of the adult population of the Federal Republic are sick, Professor Jahn of Berlin, the Vice-President of the Federal Health Bureau told doctors attending the recent annual general meeting of the Association of General Practitioners in Wiesbaden.

This is the first alarming result of a field study conducted by the Federal Health Bureau in the Federal state of Hesse using four mobile examination units equipped with the most modern apparatus available.

Professor Jahn stated that some thirty thousand adults aged between 35 and 65 were examined in the surveys held in the Langen and Alsfeld areas.

Thirty per cent of the patients admitted that they were sick as soon as they attended the head-to-toe examination. The examination showed that a further twenty per cent were sick without knowing it and a further twenty per cent were found to be "at risk" with a great susceptibility to sickness. Only thirty per cent of the cases examined were really healthy.

Artery, joint and coronary disorders were among the most common complaints discovered. Bronchial complaints, disorders of the central nervous system, cancer, diabetes and metabolic disorders came a little further down the list.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 26 November 1971)

Researchers study problems of the elderly

Medical progress and the reduction in the birth rate have led to a state of affairs that is beginning to provide politicians with a headache — society is growing older.

The over-sixties made up only 7.5 per cent of the total population in 1900. By 1966 this figure will have risen to 18.5 per cent.

The elderly are always included in the plans of advertisers and political campaigners but they still lead the existence of an outsider in today's affluent society.

The Gerontological Research Group established this year in Gießen as the first one of its kind in the Federal Republic plans to look into the many problems of the elderly in an area that concentrates on youth.

All members of the group — be they doctors, psychologists, nutritional experts, economists or sociologists — believe that society is far too quick in banishing a person to its periphery once he drops out of the production process.

The behaviour, demands and needs of the younger generation have been ex-

Professor Dieter Platt, the chairman of the research group, objects to this state of affairs as a number of complaints run a completely different course in the elderly and need special treatment.

He believes it necessary for geriatrics to be made an independent branch of medical science. If what the politicians say can be trusted, Gießen should soon be the first university in the Federal Republic with a chair for geriatrics and a geriatric clinic of its own.

Setting up geriatric hospitals would help reduce some of the strain on general hospitals as elderly patients usually block a large part of the hospital beds for a longish period.

The proportion of over-65s at the university clinics in Gießen for instance rose from eighteen per cent of the total number of patients in 1950 to forty per cent last year.

The work started in Gießen can be no more than a drop in the ocean, Professor Platt states. What is needed now is public money.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 30 November 1971)

Renting a flat is a health hazard, survey reveals

DIEWELT

Long-term surveys conducted independently of each other in Württemberg and Britain show that people living in rented accommodation tend to fall sick more frequently and have a poorer state of health than people who own their homes.

The same tendency was found among members of the British forces stationed in the Federal Republic who were accommodated in blocks of flats or terraced housing.

The frequency of illness in general has increased steadily over the last twenty or thirty years. This fact, which is also partly linked with the increase in life expectancy, was observed in the flat-dwellers covered by the survey in the test area in Württemberg.

The frequency of illness decreases steadily with people living in terraced or detached housing. The start of this decrease can be traced back to almost the exact time the family moved out of a flat into their own home.

Professor D. Oster recently wrote in the medical journal *Schädelhygiene* (Urban Hygiene) that nine years after this date there were only half as many cases of illness registered among people living in their own homes as among flat-dwellers.

The survey among the British troops proves that varying financial circumstances play no role at all. The sickness rate for flat-dwellers was 57 per cent higher than that for troops and their families quartered in terraced accommodation.

The frequency of respiratory disorders increases the higher up a person lives in a building. A third-floor flat-dweller will be 33 per cent more liable to have a respiratory disorder than a person living on the ground floor.

All these findings only reflect the fact that sickness and mortality generally increases with the size and density of the community. Although medical care is often better in larger communities, especially towns and cities, than in places with less than two thousand inhabitants, the sickness rate there is more than fifty per cent higher than in villages and other small communities.

Hygienics experts believe that physical and mental factors play an equal role here. Living in one's own home leads to greater physical activity such as repair and decorating work and gardening.

Also the greater time spent in the open air, particularly by children, helps to guard against a number of trifling complaints, especially those of the respiratory system.

Living in a terraced or detached house also fosters social contacts because of the need of neighbourly help. Female flat-dwellers suffer particularly when social contacts are lacking. Psychoneurotic disorders are three times more common in women flat-dwellers than in women living in their own house.

The feeling of security and the knowledge that one is no longer subject to the despotism of landlords must also play an important part.

Professor R. Battagay of Basel recently told a congress of social psychiatrists in Geneva that psychogenic disorders were far more frequent in densely populated suburbs than in less-crowded urban areas. However, there seems to be a certain critical limit beyond which increasing isolation is felt as mental strain.

Christoph Wolff

(Die Welt, 29 November 1971)

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COMMON MARKET

Denmark and Norway are slow to see national interest advantages in EEC

A witty diplomat in Brussels once mockingly said: "People generally have no idea what is in their national interest and this itself rarely bears any resemblance to what their governments do in the national interest."

In Brussels of course national interests run collision courses practically every day in European Economic Community and NATO discussions.

Governments in the four EEC applicant countries, Britain, Denmark, Eire, Norway, are having to fight against considerable irrational currents of public opinion in order to push through the EEC entry they want for economic reasons.

Fear of international technocrats, rich Germans and Catholic influences is mixed up with fears of making social progress.

The British government is alone in being firmly committed to EEC entry and to the foreign policy and security policy developments of the Community. The southern Irish are swimming along in the wake of the British.

The Social Democrats in Oslo are wavering partly out of concern for the northern Norwegian fisheries and partly because of Nordic sentimentality.

The Finns do not dare join the Common Market because of the Russians and the Swedes are not applying to join out of consideration for their neighbours in Finland.

Danish Prime Minister Jens Otto Krag has stated that if Norway does not join, this will present an entirely new state of affairs for the Danes, although Denmark should relatively speaking be the main beneficiary of the extended Community, from the economic viewpoint.

If Denmark were to cut back its ambition to mere trading arrangements of the kind Sweden and Finland are trying to organise with the EEC it would mean that the Danes could no longer export their farm produce to Great Britain.

Oslo and Copenhagen are not over-enthusiastic about political cooperation and the Danes have even stated that they have misapprehensions about economic policy coordination in Brussels.

National interests? If considerations are based on the idea that the smaller western European States are more independent of the economic developments of the larger than the Federal Republic, France, Italy and Great Britain are of each other's economic developments then Copenhagen and Oslo have obviously badly misjudged their national interests.

Paris is afraid of the Federal Republic's economy going into another decline like that of 1966/67 which could pull the French economy right out of joint.

In the EEC smaller countries have an opportunity to influence the decisions of their larger partners through their representatives on the European Commission.

It was not in vein that the Luxembourg Prime Minister Pierre Werner pleaded for the strengthening of Community institutions during the planning stage of the Economic and Currency Union. Luxembourg with its 350,000 inhabitants has a comparatively large say in Community affairs.

It is precisely the smaller Western European States that should come out in favour of the extension of the Community's authority gradually to foreign policy and defence.

But there we can see clearly the differences in progress of the educative process. Within the EEC the three Benelux countries are fighting in the vanguard



of the campaign to extend the Community — though not yet with regard to security policies. Obviously the Danes, Norwegians and southern Irish still have some catching up to do on their school-work.

As far as defence is concerned the six original member countries are only now after the currency crisis beginning to grasp the connection between their desire to express their own opinions with regard to trade and currency policies for the benefit of their protector, the United States, and their actual dependence on America for defence.

But we should not give up hope that the EEC applicants will also go through this process of learning and it would be wrong to let the entry of Denmark and Norway into the Community falter because of problems of lesser importance simply because their governments have not yet recognised the full advantages of membership and might impede progress.

Experience has shown that it generally takes governments ten years to learn their European integration lessons. In the conflicts of their people's emotions, their own shortsightedness and the facts it takes them that long to adjust their concept of "national interests" to the realities.

The first example is the attitude in London when the Coal and Steel Community was set up in 1950. Britain wrote this off as a Utopian ideal of the Continentals. It took them another ten years to realise that Britain's old role as a major world power was lost for good as a basis of political influence and economic

expansion and only joining up with the European mainland could help them.

Officials in Paris took about nine years — after de Gaulle's first non to British entry — to realise that their hopes of France dominating the Six was Utopian and that the admission of Britain to the EEC would help to counterbalance the economic might of the Federal Republic.

Another ten-year period was required for the EEC governments to come to the conclusion that the Community would fall apart as the seams if it were not extended to become an economic and currency union involving the surrender of a degree of sovereignty for the Nation States in the Six.

This is something that will be achieved in easy stages and is scheduled for completion in 1980. It cannot be brought about quicker than this because in all capitals there are still cold shudders at the thoughts of the full consequences.

The choice of what are true national interests and apparent national interests would come easier to the governments in Europe if they did not have to keep up the fiction of national sovereignty for domestic-policy reasons.

All politicians with insight realised long ago that even the larger European nations can only hope to gain and maintain influence through their economic strength and that this will depend far more on international conditions than even the most refined national measures.

In the past few months we have seen that Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Professor Karl Schiller and his colleagues M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in Paris, Mr Anthony Barber in London and Signor Emilio Colombo in Rome can only preserve their "national interests" if they take a united stand against the United States.

Gatt is impotent to pacify trade-war

ments with the vestigial Efta. This was coupled with the threat that Washington too would "reserve all rights."

6) Unofficial backdated claims for compensation from the United States for damages to their exports arising from the formation of the Common Market in the first place.

7) The US delegation's threat that it would not take part in any new discussions on an international level about the removal of trade barriers if an exceptionally large proportion of world trade — presumably about sixty per cent and formerly no more than 34 per cent — were concentrated within preference zones of the EEC type.

This "ultimatum", however, was later watered down in the course of the Gatt meeting, when Washington said that it was prepared to join in working towards a new worldwide round of liberalisation measures.

Gatt director-general Olivier Long has devised a plan which he has put forward to the delegations. This does not involve far away from former "aims" that have been proposed time and again since the end of the Kennedy Round in 1967.

The escalation of verbiage in Geneva was accompanied by an escalation in practice. In the Gatt secretariat it was noted that Finland had decided to follow

None of them is master of the whole situation let alone the economics and finance ministers of the smaller European nations. Obviously there is a battle to gain points for one's own country whenever possible when compromises have to be made, for even within the Community there is a kind of national economic interest caused by differences of mentality and structure and upheld by the sovereignty of the national currencies.

These are clinging to tenaciously although the international monetary crisis could probably have been avoided if the relationship between currencies had been fixed in good time by national policies and if this had been stripped of all emotional considerations and given over to the charge of an international organisation. The hotly-disputed devaluation of the dollar would in those circumstances probably have happened long ago.

The national habit of contemplating one's navel, a favourite pastime of politicians and the mass media, makes it more difficult for governments to adjust to the realities, the battle to achieve what is really the best thing for national interests rather than what is supposedly the best.

Many politicians, diplomats and journalists pour scorn on any recognition of international economic tie-ups, seeing it as a barrier to "our own policies."

For such people their own capital is the centre of the universe and their domestic policies are not regarded as a function of "international domestic policies."

On the other hand there is often a lack of insight into the minds, emotions and difficulties across the border even in these days of "flying foreign ministers", international bureaucracies and large diplomatic missions. Often very little is known in one country about the difficulties a partner country is experiencing in its own domestic policy decisions.

Western Europeans are treading a long and difficult path and their attempts to create gradual integration and overcome the concept of the nation state has a historical precedent. But other parts of the world are watching it closely and seeing it as a bold experiment.

Erlich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 November 1970)

on the heels of the United States and Denmark and erect a customs barrier albeit slight.

But a further element that could hamper international bargaining positions one day is the imposition of more and more export reliefs, either in the form of tax cuts or direct subsidies.

These measures are occasionally passed off as economic aids, but they are also times dubbed direct defensive measures against the US import levy, in Canada for instance.

The United States (and other countries) are reacting to these counter-measures by threatening counter-counter-measures.

President Nixon's special representative for trade affairs, William Eberle, mentioned trading partners with anti-dumping or adjustment taxes.

Thus the much-fared chain reaction of measure, counter-measure and counter-counter-measure seems to be verging on reality.

Gatt, which is supposed to act as bomb disposal expert in such a situation, obviously does not know how to deal with this one. The original rules and regulations of this organisation have been twisted, extended and distorted by any number of new interpretations.

Several principles of world trade have been found to run contrary to each other. There is nothing new in this — but what is new is the extent to which it is taking effect.

On the one hand there is the Common Market, spanning a whole continent, and

Continued on page 12

INDUSTRY

Hoechst chairman Sammet faces trouble coolly

Neither worry nor nervousness can be seen on the face of the man who leads the largest West German chemicals company, Rolf Sammet, Chairman of the Board of Hoechst Dyeworks. And this is in spite of the fact that he has just had to tell his shareholders for the second time that profits are down by one third in the current year and for the first time since the War there has been a cut in dividends.

He said: "We must see how far we can bridge the gap over the present economic chasm by a number of specific measures, until there is a general improvement in the economic and industrial scene."

Hoechst has had to rethink a number of ideas that have been in use in the past few years. Up till now the chemicals giant on the River Main near Frankfurt with a turnover for 1970 of 11,600 million Marks has consistently been expanding its domestic production and at the same time has begun to re-establish a number of important foreign contacts and subsidiary companies lost and destroyed by the Second World War.

The proportion of exports as compared with domestic production has been increasing continuously. This meant that unavoidably supplies to the international market by West Germany's major growth industry — chemicals — mainly came from the domestic market's production lines.

It was not merely by chance that last year 55 per cent of the company's turnover was chalked up abroad, 33.5 per cent, 4,080 million Marks of domestic production went for export. In addition to this one must consider 2,500 million Marks produced abroad.

This production plan worked well for a long as currency policies and steeply rising costs were not there to queer the pitch and for as long as all was well with production costs and yield. But international over-production, the uncertainty with regard to currencies and the rise in production costs made it necessary to arrive at a completely new concept.

While turnover at Hoechst foreign subsidiary companies managed to increase by another thirty per cent this year the all-important export rate of the West German based companies fell well below expectations.

Rolf Sammet commented: "As a consequence of this we shall step up our foreign productivity and make corresponding investments."

Herr Sammet keeps a cool head especially when it comes to mathematics: "If the yield remains high and opportunities do not decline we must give preference to expansion of foreign production."

Needless to say this will have a detrimental effect with regard to employment in the Federal Republic. Even in the first six months of this year the degree to which production capacity was extended in this country's chemical plants was "not particularly staggering".

Herr Sammet was accused of being cynical Jimmy when he announced that dividends for 1971 might have to be cut, but he has not revised his opinion. He said: "The level of production in Hoechst factories as a whole has not been stepped up since then. Quite the contrary."

At the end of November Hoechst told 1,650 workers at three factories (in West Berlin, Bad Hersfeld and Bobingen) producing synthetic fibres that they would have to go on short-time.

The reason for this was that exports to the United States had taken a knock as a result of the price increase forced by the floating of the Mark and the American

import surcharge, although since then synthetic fibres are among the products which have been exempted from this measure.

This case indeed shows the whole dilemma of the West German chemicals industry as clearly as may be. In recent years Hoechst made huge investments to set up a syntheses production plant at Spartanburg in South Carolina and last year this plant had a turnover of 250 million Marks.

But this was not sufficient to meet demand on the American market. However, if there had been higher investments made on the American market at an earlier point in time this would have meant a corresponding cutback in investments on the West German domestic market and would have led to a further cut in the number of jobs available for people in this country.

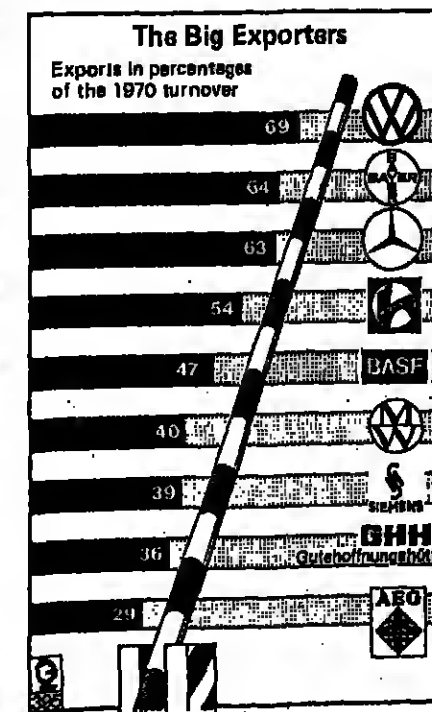
But the difficulties with regard to exports are not confined to the American market alone. Herr Sammet says: "We cannot get out of our difficulties by withdrawing individual products from individual markets. Back in the autumn of 1969 when the revaluation of the Mark came our watchword was: what we have taken years to build up will not be thrown away in a matter of weeks. At that time we were even prepared to take a few losses in our stride if it would mean saving foreign markets which had taken us a lot of time, patience and money to build up."

"As a result of the floating of the Mark in May this year we are not so far away from price disadvantages to the tune of twenty per cent. If this happens we are past the stage of ploughing back profits and have reached the stage of throwing good money after bad."

Rolf Sammet is quite clear about the consequences of taking such a decision: "This is not a temporary tactical withdrawal," he said. "Once you have given up a market you will probably not be able to win it back for many years. There are always competitors at the door."

Herr Sammet is not keen to divulge which markets are affected in case this gives the opposition a chance to leap in even more smartly. And anyway a change for the better may well come sooner than anyone predicted, for instance if Bonn re-fixes the parity of the Mark.

One sore spot, not only for Hoechst but also for other West German chemicals companies, is the South American plastics market.



A warning comes from Herr Sammet that no one should get too optimistic about the foreign trading position which remains favourable. "It takes a long time for the brake to bite," he warns. "The first adverse effects will be felt at the earliest in six months' time and the full effect will not be felt for another year. And the damage that is caused than will remain irreparable for many a long day."

There is no doubt that rising production costs have made domestic production too expensive for international markets in many cases. And the domestic market is too small to make adequate use of modern-day production capacities running to the full.

Where plant producing 6,000 to 10,000 tons per annum once stood there are now factories capable of turning out 100,000 tons in a year, and more.

"The advantages of expansion of production are a thing of the past," the Hoechst boss maintains. "Once upon a time larger production units helped to soak up the detrimental effects of rising costs. But those days are gone and risks are increasing."

As far as many products are concerned rationalisation of technology has gone about as far as it can. "The only line of defence we have now is prices," Herr Sammet said.

But even the boss of West Germany's biggest chemicals company is in no position to tell whether the state of the market will permit him to put prices up in the foreseeable future. It will depend on the state of the labour market in this country and how secure jobs are, as well as the actions that Hoechst shareholders call for.

First of all immediate problems stretching into the New Year will have to be dealt with. Apart from strengthening the state of production in foreign subsidiaries and the renunciation of unprofitable concerns abroad Hoechst has also decided to put a much tighter rein on domestic investments.

Following the record level of investments of 1,800 million Marks two years ago there has been a cutback and next year only 740 million Marks will go on new plant. This is not much more than the level of depreciation.

And on this score Herr Sammet naturally is only planning for the short-term. The main plan is to build plants that will quickly prove profitable in order to improve the company yield without a long period of consolidation.

Old plants will be closed down. For instance the calcium cyanamide plant in Knapsack will be wound up after 64 years. Personnel will be cut, but this is only possible by means of natural wastage.

Herr Sammet commented: "Up till now we have always managed to pull through without taking any drastic measures." Only time will tell if this will be possible in the future.

On the other hand the programme of investments abroad, although having to be checked to a certain extent is certainly running in far higher gear than at home. One of the main reasons for this is that a number of Hoechst foreign subsidiaries in which the company has invested much money have now started paying off handsomely so that the "burden of financing for the Frankfurt parent company is only half as much as in previous years."

Rolf Sammet added: "We could of course find the money to make greater investments on the home market, but we don't want to. We are categorically opposed to this. It does not make sense to set up factories if they are not going to be profitable."

"We have to keep a weather eye on the balance sheet even if at the moment investments that are no higher than the level of depreciation signify a retrograde step in effect. New plant is costing fifteen to twenty per cent more per year."

But Herr Sammet has no illusions on this score either. A cutback in investment



Rolf Sammet

(Photo: Heinrich Seitz/Farbwerke Hoechst)

is a turn for the worse as far as the future is concerned, since it means that the depreciation level is lower, he stated, but went on to say that when the economic picture brightens up the need for investment increases once again.

Shareholders will not be pleased at having preference shares issued while receiving smaller dividends. But if they do (and Herr Sammet considers that this is not absolutely impossible) "than we must impose conditions that make the capital so expensive for us to obtain that it will be of no interest."

Not only can Herr Sammet see the weak links in the chain at present as far as industry and the economy are concerned — he also feels he can see a way out.

He said: "Just what happens in the future will be measured by the yardstick of costs and profits. One thing is certain: demand for our products is increasing even in the present difficult times."

The Hoechst Board Chairman refuses to be affected by the epidemic of pessimism that is presently sweeping through this sector of the economy. He said: "I am sure it is just a question of a temporary fall in the profit margin."

He is optimistic that in the near future all will be well for Farbwerke Hoechst: "Growing demand will be able to fill out our production capacities which are a size or two too large at present, and the currency crisis must come to an end. In many spheres now there have been huge cutbacks in investment and so it must be possible to achieve harmony again as regards costs and profits."

But he warns that it is essential that the burden be allowed to mount more steeply than that of our competitors.

"I sometimes get the impression that in this country people are all too eager to make plans without foreseeing the logical conclusion of them."

Moreover the Hoechst boss is in favour of the social progress that has been made in his company and the economy as a whole in the past, commenting: "It is senseless for the share of burdens to be unequal with the result that our exports are damaged and jobs in this country are endangered."

An industrialist today has to carry the burden on both shoulders. He must carry out the wishes and demands of his employees insofar as this is possible and he must treat the shareholders with kid gloves since they provide the capital and if it is necessary to create new jobs they are the people to finance the project.

According to Rolf Sammet each job at Hoechst is created at a cost of 350,000 to 400,000 Marks.

Even though shares carry a risk all concerned should pull together like a well-coxed crew — workers, management and those who supply the wherewithal. For this to be achieved, Rolf Sammet says, an information network is vital.

Wolfgang Müller-Haessler
(Die Zeit, 3 December 1971)

■ AUTOMOBILES

Daimler went 'commercial' 75 years ago

Seventy-five years ago, in the autumn of 1896, brochures were issued to acquaint the general public with the fact that Daimler Motors of Cannstatt "have, in addition to Daimler cars for passenger traffic, constructed a Daimler motor goods vehicle designed to handle freight."

The first motorised lorries were powered by combustion engines capable of speeds of between three and twelve kilometres an hour (two to eight mph) and, the brochure emphasised, could also drive backwards.

The wheels had iron rims and the four versions of the new vehicle offered cost between 4,600 and 7,350 Marks. Gottlieb Daimler's first sales successes with his new vehicle were in England.

In America close attention was paid to the development of Daimler and Benz motor-cars, steam engines having previously been predominant.

In 1888 William Steinway, the owner of the world-famous piano firm, had concluded an agreement with Daimler on the manufacture of Daimler products and engines in the United States.

At the first international motor show, held in New York in 1900, American-made Daimler vans created a sensation. The new mode of transport was much in demand in urban areas.

Daimler, at that time the only firm in America to manufacture goods vehicles, inaugurated a breakdown and repair service in 1902. This too was a sensational new development and the first of its kind in the infant motor trade.

In the long run, though, Daimler of America, concentrating on made-to-measure quality, was unable to hold its own in the face of the beginnings of mass production. The firm was wound up after the works had been ravaged by fire.

In Germany, the country of origin of combustion-engined commercial vehicles, some time was to elapse before the new mode of transport caught on.

The idea of constructing a combustion-engined omnibus was suggested to Carl Benz by a number of imaginative Siedlerland businessmen in 1894.

The first Benz omnibus, resembling a Landauer coach in design, seating eight passengers, a driver and co-driver and powered by a five-horse-power engine, cost 6,000 Marks.

On 18 March 1895 the first motorised omnibus route between Siegen and the villages of Netphen and Deuz was inaugurated but the service only operated for nine months because of initial teething troubles.

There was no stopping the trend, however. Gottlieb Daimler and Carl Benz were not disheartened by initial setbacks and in 1898 a London company took delivery of the first twenty-seater twelve-horse-power omnibus.

This model proved such a success that Daimler went on to manufacture four versions, and although they did not sell too well in Germany to begin with, in England they quickly replaced steam omnibuses in much the same way as their predecessors, the combustion-engined goods vehicles, had proved more than a match for steam or electric power.

At the turn of the century the first regular combustion-engined bus services were inaugurated in London and Birmingham and the first coach tours organised.

The coach tours were run in hilly Wales. In May and June 1898 three fifteen-horse-power Benz omnibuses were employed on coach tours in and around Llandudno in North Wales.



Daimler omnibuses with trailers in 1911 at Königssee, Bavaria

(Photo: Daimler-Benz)

They can be regarded as the beginnings of motorised group tourism.

Daimler and Benz omnibuses having proved such a success in England, a fresh start was made in Germany too. Three years after the fiasco of the Siegen-Netphen-Deuz service, in February 1898, a service between Künzelsau and Mergentheim in Württemberg was inaugurated.

The maiden run, with Gottlieb Daimler himself as a passenger, went off without mishaps and everyone was satisfied. Yet the service itself proved a slow and cumbersome business.

Often enough there was no fuel because chemists were unable to supply the petrol. The drivers were not experienced enough either. One breakdown followed another. In the summer of 1899 the service was discontinued.

A bus service in Speyer and surrounding areas proved more successful with its fleet of five Daimler omnibuses. It flourished for eleven years before a local railway knocked the bottom out of the market.

Again neither Daimler nor Benz were discouraged. They persevered with their motor omnibuses and the breakthrough came in 1905 due to the initiative of a number of postal services.

On 1 June 1905 the Bavarian Post Office inaugurated the first post omnibus service between Bad Tölz and Lenggries. In order to enable passengers to enjoy the view the fleet of omnibuses, specially built by Daimler in Marienfelde, Berlin, were fitted out with large picture windows.

Postal buses proved such a success in Bavaria that by 1911 fifty-three routes were running all the year round. That year the Bavarian Post Office made a net profit of 300,000 Marks on its bus services.

The first local run between Bad Tölz and Lenggries was thus the forerunner of

Continued from page 10

on the other hand there are developing countries, which are striving to create zones of preference for trade with these highly industrialised nations to their own benefit.

There are a number of changes going on in world trade and the United States has found itself on the outside looking in.

The days are gone when the United States' price for accepting Great Britain's entry into the European Economic Community was to cut its customs duties even further and even reduce them to nil.

The actions of the United States when faced with acute trade and currency problems, have proved to be partially

postal bus services used today by millions of passengers.

"Specials" are as old as the motor-car itself. From the start Gottlieb Daimler endeavoured to put his fast petrol engines to universal use. Combustion engines were used for motor-cars, fur motor boats, motorcycles, airplanes, fire engines and any number of commercial vehicles.

Gottlieb Daimler unveiled the first motorised fire engine at the 1888 fire brigade conference in Hanover. This premiere heralded a whole succession of special vehicles for local authority use.

In 1906 Benz of Gagganum manufactured the first fully-motorised fire engine and sales were so successful that both firms developed other special-purpose vehicles. In 1902 Glasgow commissioned the world's first garbage truck from Daimler and in this sector too steam engines were swiftly displaced.

In the commercial vehicle sector too further events were to prove of major importance: the development of the diesel engine and the merger of Daimler and Benz.

It took thirty years for the first diesel engine, built by MAN of Augsburg in 1894, to develop into a feasible economic and engineering proposition. The credit was largely due to Daimler of Berlin and Benz of Mannheim.

On 8 February 1924 the world's first diesel goods vehicle, a Benz live-tonner with cardan transmission, was premiered at the Amsterdam motor show. It too proved a sensation.

After the Daimler-Benz merger in 1926 the new combined design centre in Untertürkheim, Stuttgart, immediately set about perfecting the diesel engine for commercial use. In a mere three decades diesel-engined commercial vehicles gained worldwide predominance.

Willi Wiczorek

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 November 1971)

Wankel motor offers conventional engines fierce competition

Twenty-one licence-holders ranging from General Motors, Ford, Volkswagen and even Eastern Bloc manufacturers have joined forces with Audi-NSU in trying to perfect the Wankel rotary engine and engineer a breakthrough for this revolutionary development.

Since 1967 more than 25,000 Ro 80 saloons have run off the assembly lines at Neckarsulm and Citroën are also pressing ahead with work on the Comobil, a project sponsored jointly with NSU, now a division of Volkswagen.

At Daimler-Benz the C 111 and further versions of the three-disc Wankel prototype are being put through their paces and in Japan Mazda (the trade name of Toyo Kogyo) are manufacturing long runs of rotary engines for private cars.

Only recently senior development engineers and directors of Audi-NSU stressed that the Wankel engine has ended its teething troubles once and for all and can now be considered a serious competitor of the conventional piston engine named in this country after Nikolaus August Otto, the man who invented it in 1876.

But has the rotary engine really reached the stage at which it can outstrip the conventional internal combustion engine in all its countless versions?

Prototypes of the NSU-Wankel twin-disc model underwent their first trials in July 1966. Despite the various mock-ups the 80, the new experimental model, became known and gave rise to considerable interest.

In mid-October 1967 the Ro 80 went into series production and earned Carl the Year awards in this country and abroad.

But the high hopes that were placed in the Ro 80 have only partially been fulfilled. Production figures did not reach the level the manufacturers had hoped for and the engine itself proved troublesome.

The engine guarantee 30,000 kilometres or eighteen months is three times the normal and even though Audi-NSU have often enough been most obliging over and above this guarantee period there can be little doubt that over the last four years the Ro 80 has for the most part been bought by car-lovers and not by the ordinary motoring public.

To a certain extent the owners have only themselves to blame. Since the manufacturers proved so obliging in respect of guarantee claims many Ro 80-owners have taken their car in for a overhaul before anything was seriously wrong with the vehicle.

All in all the rotary engine is undoubtedly a competitor for the conventional car engine, though pundits still disagree in their assessment.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 2 December 1971)

Gatt is powerless

hasty and contradictory and during the course of the Gatt conference in Geneva this proved more and more to be a problem which was widening the gap opened up between the United States and Europe.

This process does not allow an overall concept to be created and therefore is subject to daily alterations.

Observers whose word really counts for a lot and who are experts on the matter of steps taken by the Americans are coming round more and more to the idea that neither trade-policy negotiations (as

the Gatt conference in Geneva showed) nor currency-policy discussions alone are going to be sufficient to defuse the present crisis.

In addition it will be necessary for political decisions to be taken.

The tendency to split up this major crisis into a number of mini-crises still continues, particularly on the part of those who do not want to see major changes taking place.

But it will scarcely be possible to avoid breaking free of such narrow fields of vision. The talks between President Nixon and the heads of European governments will be the first step in this direction.

Erich Reym

(Die Welt, 27 November 1971)

■ MODERN LIVING

BASF unveils housing unit for 1980 at Hanover building trades fair

Badische Anilin- & Soda-Fabrik AG, Europe's major synthetics manufacturer, have unveiled "Housing Unit 1980," a further development of the styropor concrete units premiered at last year's Constructa, the Hanover building trades fair.

The prototypes unveiled at Hanover were compact housing units ready for slotting into the bare bones of a building. The latest development, the 1980 unit, includes interior fittings made of synthetic materials.

For the time being the entire project is at the experimental stage and although two years of development have been completed the manufacture of synthetic furniture and housing units is not envisaged until a further ten years of development have elapsed.

Two teams have been commissioned to consider how people will be living and want to live in ten years' time and to arrive at the best possible synthesis of good design, utility and materials.

The survey is also to consider whether developments in the synthetic furniture market have so far been accurately assessed.

The outcome of this review can already be forecast. BASF's apt in situ view seems to be heading for confirmation. The latest prototypes on view at Ludwigs-hafen consist for the most part of BASF synthetic materials.

According to a survey conducted by the firm the furniture industry is using

some 70,000 tons of plastics this year. In ten years' time this figure will be half a million tons, not far short of half the volume of raw materials used by the industry.

So the trend has only just got under way. Some of the furniture on exhibit will not be marketed for some considerable time, though, because — for instance — some of the machinery for mass production has yet to be developed.

Process engineering has yet to be perfected for a number of large-size units and so BASF see "a good deal of leeway between what can be put into practice at present and what is on the cards in the foreseeable future."

It is, of course, admitted that further developments can be foreseen in general but that the exact course events will take cannot be forecast in detail.

BASF nonetheless emphatically deny that they are merely crystal ball gazing. They feel their prototypes to be a contribution to the general debate. The housing units are not supposed to be the shape of things to come, merely a suggestion based, naturally enough, on the viewpoint of the synthetics industry.

There are, when all is said and done, limits to the amount of wood available and it is an expensive raw material to process. BASF feel that synthetic materials are better in this respect.

What is more, synthetics afford designers greater opportunities of, say, moulding entire articles of furniture in one piece.

Tomorrow's living will not be determined solely by the properties of the materials available, however. Individual wishes and requirements will increasingly be taken into account and in this sector futurology is pretty well the next step.

The two research teams, headed respectively by Professors Hürle of Stuttgart and Votteler of Brunswick, have endeavoured to offset the lack of scientific based information on living habits today, not to mention likely living patterns in ten years' time, by setting up advisory working parties.

Sociologists, economists, physiologists, psychologists and medical men have joined forces in an attempt to make a realistic forecast as to how people will live in a decade's time.

Independently the two teams have arrived at similar conclusions. The apartment, Votteler maintains, will make way for what he chooses to call the "living environment", a large open room without firm supporting walls.

Flats will no longer consist of a collection of individual rooms intended for predetermined purposes. Functions will merge and interior decor will be more flexible.

In both surveys a room is not divided into individual prearranged cells by means of fixed walls. Movable functional elements, cupboards, for instance, will facilitate rearrangement as required.

It is assumed that in 1980 the family, no doubt similar in size to the present, will still be the predominant group unit.

Flexibility of housing interiors will, however, make it possible to provide additional room for various functions as and when required.

Children, domestic economy, information, rehabilitation, hygiene and both as sectors of living assume varying degrees of importance in the course of a lifetime. The lounge as a reception room to be used only on special occasions is to be rendered a thing of the past.

The idea is for an all-purpose living room to lead off into various functional centres (Votteler). Instead of individual items of furniture the flat-owner will, according to Professor Hürle, in ten years' time be thinking in terms of furniture systems consisting of free-standing, mobile functional units.

This represents a partial answer to what is already recognised to be a problem of shortage of space (Votteler). As population density increases so will the need to make better use of available living space.

The one question the specialists are unable to answer is whether or not people themselves will be prepared to accept their new ideas in ten years' time.

True enough, most new apartments are currently still designed along conventional lines. As a rule it is still the architect who decides beforehand which walls are to be situated where and which room is to be the hub of the household.

When is the general public going to say "Thus far and no further!" As Professor Votteler says, that will depend largely on the individual. And the individual must be clear in his own mind whether or not he feels multi-functional living to be a good idea.

The question would be easier to answer if we knew how much it was going to cost. At present all that BASF feel able to say is that manufacturing costs will not be all that inexpensive.

Frank J. Eichhorn

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 December 1971)

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